



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David L. Huber  
Western District of Kentucky

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CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN  
PHONE: (502) 582-5911  
FAX: (502) 582-5097

## **TEXAS MAN SENTENCED FOR DRUG CONSPIRACY**

*– Approximately \$2.7 Million of Marijuana Hidden Under a Load of Vegetables*

LOUISVILLE, KY - **Erasmio Castillo Jr.**, age 32 , of Mission, Texas, was sentenced on July 12, 2007, to 17 years and 2 months imprisonment in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, for conspiracy to distribute and distributing marijuana, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today. Jennifer C. Coffman, Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Castillo to five years supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

In his previous plea of guilty, Castillo had admitted that on or about June 26, 2007, he had arranged for a load of baled marijuana weighing approximately 1700 pounds to be hidden under a truckload of vegetables and transported to Louisville from Mission, Texas. The street value of marijuana in this area would be approximately \$2,720,000.

The case developed when an alert officer at a weigh station in Hope, Arkansas, noticed the marijuana and notified the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), whose agents began a surveillance to determine the ultimate destination of the marijuana. The DEA agents followed the truck to a warehouse on Robards Lane in Louisville. They observed Castillo driving another vehicle and trailing the truck to help ensure its safe arrival. When the truck arrived in Louisville and went to the Robards Lane warehouse to offload, it was met by several other men who had been recruited by Castillo to assist in the offloading. The DEA agents allowed the offloading

process to begin before raiding the warehouse and arresting the participants. Along with Castillo, they arrested Jesus Reynaldo-Casarez, Jose Camacho-Castillo, Ricardo Garcia-Navarez, and Jose Luis Medina-Rodriguez, all of whom have pleaded guilty and been sentenced for their respective roles in the conspiracy.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Larry Fentress, and it was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

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